

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, John D. Spellman's lifetime of public service began when he dropped out of high school to join first the Merchant Marines, then the Navy during World War II, and subsequently attended Seattle University on the GI Bill, graduating as valedictorian in 1949; and

**WHEREAS**, Spellman studied for the priesthood, decided instead to become a lawyer, and became a national moot court champion during law school at Georgetown University; and

**WHEREAS**, Spellman, as a young Seattle attorney in the 1950s, took up civil rights and union cases, joined the clean-government progressives and campaigned for "Forward Thrust" programs to clean up Lake Washington, build parks and improve transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, Spellman, as King County's first-ever county executive, swept out patronage and palm-greasing to create a modern government; led King County through the "Boeing Bust" of the 1970s; and promoted racial equality, criminal justice reforms, land-use planning and farmlands preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, Spellman, as governor, persevered at every turn to build a landmark domed stadium, the Kingdome, and helped secure the sports franchises that made Seattle a big-league town; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Spellman's courageous rejection of the Northern Tier pipeline application in 1982 – in the face of a full court press by the Reagan Administration – prevented an oil pipeline with a capacity of a million barrels a day from snaking along the bottom of Puget Sound; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Spellman opened the door to trade with China and boosted job creation statewide, especially in distressed counties, and created a Housing Finance Commission that allowed thousands to achieve the dream of home ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, John Spellman's many years of outstanding leadership serve as an inspiration to all Washingtonians;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim December 29, 2016, Governor Spellman's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, as

### *John Spellman Day*

in Washington, and urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee

